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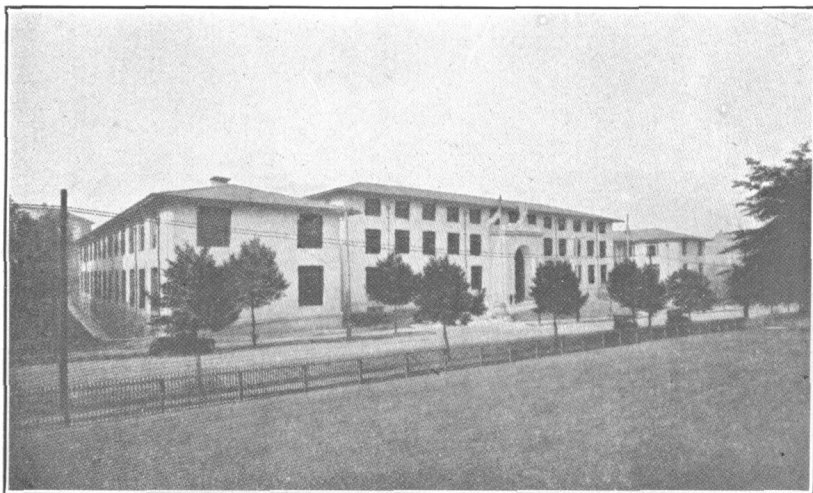
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THE PITTSBURGH EXPERIMENT STATION OF THE BUREAU OF MINES.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

DEDICATION OF THE PITTSBURGH EXPERIMENT STATION OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

THE new experiment station of the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh, which has been in use for about two years, was formally dedicated to public service on September 29, the dedication ceremonies having been postponed on account of the emergency of war. E. V. Babcock, mayor of the city, welcomed the guests and official delegates and this welcome was responded to by A. T. Vogelsang, first assistant secretary of the interior, who read the following telegram from President Wilson: "Will you not be kind enough to convey my most hearty greetings to the assemblage at Pittsburgh next Monday. I wish that I might be present to express my very deep interest in the work being done by such instrumentalities for the increase of production, the safeguarding of life and the raising of the standard of

labor and scientific endeavor. It is a very happy circumstance that with this meeting should be associated the ceremonies connected with the dedication of the new buildings in Pittsburgh of the Bureau of Mines."

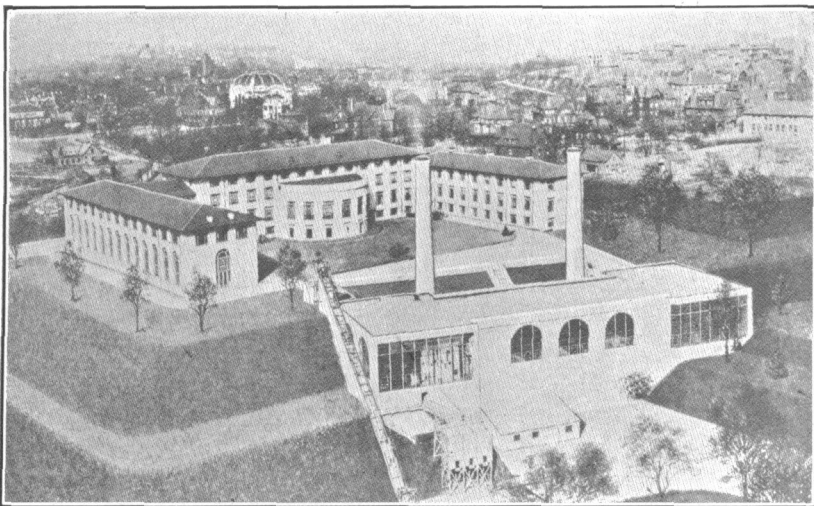
William C. Sproul, governor of Pennsylvania, spoke of the importance of the Mining Industry in the state, of the contribution which the Bureau of Mines has made and can make to its continued progress, and pledged the cooperation of the state in every way in helping the bureau to do the things it is necessary and desirable to do in the development of the Pittsburgh station to its full usefulness. He also urged the cooperation of the men who do the work in the industry and the men who have the properties in which the work is done. J. Parke Channing, the representative of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, discussed the problem of production and distribution in industry and the industrial problems of the day.

The key of the building was formally turned over to Director Van H. Manning by Assistant Secretary Vogelsang, who said that he hoped the key would never lock the building, but be regarded rather as a symbol of the purpose and the function of the bureau to unlock the secrets of nature for the use and benefits of all mankind. Mr. Manning in receiving the key said: "It is indeed to me a very high privilege to accept from you this key to this magnificent structure which has been contributed to the cause of humanity by our Government. It is an honor to be the representative who has been selected to accept this emblem which stands for safety and efficiency in the universal industry and I hereby pledge to you, Mr. Secretary, and to you who represent capital and labor, employer and employee in the mining and allied industries, my allegiance to the cause we represent."

The Pittsburgh station and its work, the development of the Bureau of Mines and the plans of its founder, Dr. J. A. Holmes, are described in an illustrated program

published at the time of the dedication. It states that forming a part of the mining division of the Bureau of Mines, the coal mining section has its headquarters at the Pittsburgh Experiment Station, which is centrally situated with respect to the large coal fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other nearby states. For the purposes of organization the mining regions of the country are divided into several districts, a mining engineer being placed in charge of the work of the bureau in each district. In addition to the corps of engineers maintained at Pittsburgh under the direct supervision of the chief coal mining engineers, district engineers whose investigations pertain chiefly to coal mining are stationed at Birmingham, Ala., Vincennes, Ind., Urbana, Ill., Seattle, Wash., Golden, Colorado, and McAlester, Okla.

The mine safety section has its headquarters at Pittsburgh with safety stations also at McAlester, Okla.; Vincennes, Ind.; Birmingham, Ala.; Jellico, Tenn.; Seattle, Wash.; Norton, Va., and Berkeley, Calif. Six new all-steel cars have



THE PITTSBURGH STATION FROM THE REAR.

been built to replace the old remodeled cars, three of which, however, are still in use. Five auto trucks are also maintained for training work and for emergency use in the event of mine disaster. Other departments are the fuels section, the electrical section, the mechanical section, the chemical section, the analytical laboratory, the gas laboratory, the gas-mask laboratory, the natural gas research unit, the microscopic research unit, the petroleum laboratory, the explosives chemical laboratory, the metallurgical and metallographic laboratories, and the physical laboratory, the experimental mine near Princeton, Pa., explosive section and the administrative section.

THE BUREAU OF MINES AND JAMES AUSTIN HOLMES

THE work of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, as defined in the legislation creating it, is to conduct scientific and technologic investigations concerning mining and the preparation of mineral substances with a view to the increase of health, safety and efficiency in the mineral industries. Its work has two phases: investigative, to determine the best procedure along these lines; and co-operative, to assist industry in utilizing to the fullest practicable degree the improved practises thus developed. To the latter end it welcomes the cooperation of operators, workmen's organizations, commercial bodies, technical societies, state and other government officials, and every one who is interested in the advancement of the mining and metallurgical industry.

The research branch has charge of investigation which is chiefly carried on in the experiment stations, although a large part is performed in the field. For purposes of technical supervision, there are five divisions of the research work;

mining, metallurgical, petroleum, mechanical equipment (which includes the utilization of fuel) and mineral technology.

The operations branch carries on the cooperative work of the bureau that has been initiated by the research branch. The division of mine rescue cars and stations carries on mine rescue and first aid work at actual disasters, trains thousands of miners yearly to perform such work, and promotes interest in safety in mining through every means at its command. The division of education and information facilitates the making available to the mining public of the work done by the other branches, through publication of researches and statistics, exhibits, motion pictures, and the dissemination of information as to the laws governing the mining industry.

The foundation of the bureau was due in large measure to the efforts of the late Professor James Austin Holmes. When state geologist of North Carolina, he was chosen to organize the department of mines and metallurgy of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. His creative imagination saw there an opportunity to secure results of permanent value through the analyzing and testing of the coal resources of the United States and of structural materials in connection with the exhibition, and this was done under the direction of a commission of which he was a member. After the close of the exposition the work was continued under his charge. The testing plant was subsequently transferred to the Jamestown Exposition and finally to the Arsenal grounds at Pittsburgh. In 1907 the technologic branch of the U. S. Geological Survey was organized with Dr. Holmes in charge.

At that time the United States had the unenviable distinction of